



San Diego City Attorney Jan I. Goldsmith

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Gina Coburn, Communications Director: (619) 533-6181

La Jolla Woman Convicted of Phony Rental Scheme

San Diego, CA: Dolores Woodson advertised a room for rent in a La Jolla home and required deposits from would-be-renters. The problem was she was a tenant, not the owner of the house, and she took multiple deposits without ever renting the room.

Woodson, also known as Dee Woodson, age 56, now stands convicted of grand theft following her guilty plea in San Diego Superior Court yesterday. Pursuant to a plea agreement, Woodson made full refunds of the deposits to the four known victims totaling \$2,735, and was ordered to pay a fine of \$1,000. Woodson was also placed on three years' probation.

The San Diego City Attorney's Office filed charges against Woodson in 2009 following an investigation by the City Attorney's Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit. The investigation revealed that Woodson advertised the room for rent on *craigslist.org* in late 2008. The victims claimed Woodson took their deposits and then gave excuses as to why they could not move into the home. "We will continue to prosecute all those involved in the phony rental scam business," said Deputy City Attorney Mike Rivo, who prosecuted the case.

The City Attorney's Office believes there still may be victims of Woodson's rental scam. Anyone who may be a victim or who has information about potential victims should contact the City Attorney's Consumer Help Line at (619) 533-5600.

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